

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00947 260009Z

13

ACTION ARA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0947

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 40234

1. EMBOFF IN A DISCUSSION OF BEEF EXPORT SITUATION WITH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICTOR HUGO ROMAN, EMPHASIZED FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR INCREASED IMPORTS OF BEEF THIS YEAR INTO EC AND INFORMED HIM OF SPECIFIC INTEREST OF EC COMPANY SOCOPA IN IMPORTING MEAT FROM COSTA RICA. ROMAN REPLIED THAT AN INQUIRY HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM A COMPANY IN FRANCE, AND COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY FURNISHED PRICE QUOTATION. ROMAN SAID THAT GOCR WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPORT MEAT TO EUROPE BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT URUGUAY IS MAKING A BIG EFFORT TO SELL MEAT IN EUROPEAN MARKET AND MEAT FROM SUCH COUNTRIES AS URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA MUST NECESSARILY SELL AT A LOWER PRICE BECAUSE, BEING FROM AN AFTOSA-INFECTED AREA, IT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SALE IN THE U.S.

2. SIMILAR VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF BY ANOTHER SENIOR FORNMIN OFFICER (ANTILLON) IN A SPEARATE CONVERSATION. ANTILLON OBSERVED THAT PRICE WAS ALSO THE BIG BARRIER IN A PROPOSED SALE TO ISRAEL, AS ISRAELIS HAD WANTED GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ONE
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00947 260009Z

YEAR, WHEREAS COSTA RICAN MEAT PACKERS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO BASING

PRICES ON U.S. "YELLOWSHEET PRICES," WHICH FLUCTUATE DAILY.
ISRAELI SALE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE TO ARGENTINA. TODMAN

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